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FBI Probes Report Of Shot at Nixon

The Justice Department yesterday indirectly downplayed an unverified report that a shot may have been fired at President Nixon before his limousine was stoned on Oct. 29 in San Jose, Calif.

Although the FBI said it was investigating at the department's request, Attorney General John N. Mitchell said through a spokesman that such an inquiry was "normal" after an episode of that kind.

Mitchell, who was with the President at Key Biscayne, Fla., Saturday, also said that he had not heard of the unverified report until the spokesman relayed an inquiry about it from The Washington Post.

FBI agents in Key Biscayne and Washington have been interviewing members of the White House staff and newsmen who witnessed the attack on the President's motorcade.

The agents focused on the brief time span during which Mr. Nixon had emerged from a San Jose auditorium, stood on the hood of his car and with both hands waved "V" signs at the demonstrators, the Associated Press said.

So far as is known, no newsman on the scene had any reason to believe a shot was fired.

The Secret Service in Washington declined to comment on the investigation, referring a reporter back to the FBI.

However, the Secret Service has maintained that at no time during the San Jose episode was the President's life in danger.

The President's car is heavily armored. It is equipped with glass heavy enough to withstand high-velocity rifle bullets.

Escorted by Andrew Hutch, the Secret Service agent who drove the car, reporters have inspected it. He pointed to paint chips, tears in the vinyl roof and dents in the sides and doors.

FBI Urged To Remain Off Campus

United Press International

Sen. George S. McGovern (D-S.D.) has asked Attorney General John N. Mitchell to keep FBI agents off college campuses unless local officials request or approve their assignment in advance.

McGovern said yesterday his request to the Justice Department was based on the results of a nationwide survey of college presidents, local police chiefs and student body presidents on the role of the FBI in investigating campus incidents where explosives may be involved.

He said 53.9 per cent of those responding disapproved of the Nixon administration's proprosal to send uninvited FBI agents onto campuses. He said 84.4 per cent would favor the Justice Department's seeking prior approval of the local authorities before dispatching agents to troubled campuses.

Little more than one-third of the 900 persons on 300 campuses receiving McGovern's questionaire last month had responded.

All groups favored a requirement for prior local approval—97.5 per cent of the student leaders, 82.9 per cent of the college presidents, and 68.9 per cent of the local police chiefs. McGovern said, however, that the student leaders preferred giving the students, rather than police, a say in whether to approve the FBI presence.

McGovern said he had asked Mitchell to clarify the FBI's legal authority in campus investigations and to "declare as a matter of policy" that agents will not be used unless police and campus officials approve or ask for FBI aid.

He also said he is "studying the possibility" of introducing legislation to formalize such a policy.